

Attorney Docket No. MBP-010XX

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit:

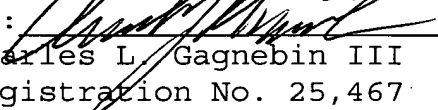
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 13-17 have been amended; new claims 19-28 have been added; and claims 1, 2, 5, 10-12 and 18 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience:

3. The compound according to claim ~~1-or-2~~, wherein the groups  $R^3$  each represent methyl and group  $R^4$  represents methoxy.
4. The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-3~~, wherein group  $R^1$  represents aminoacyl and group  $R^2$  represents  $(C_1-C_4)$ acyl.
6. The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-5~~, wherein group  $R^1$  represents  $-NH_2$  and group  $R^2$  represents glutamidyl or 2-aminopropionamidyl.
7. The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-6~~, wherein the toxin is selected from the group consisting of microcystin and nodularin congeners.
8. The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-7~~ which is a polyclonal, monoclonal or recombinant antibody or a functionally active derivative or fragment thereof.
9. A method for the preparation of the compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-8~~ comprising the steps of

- (a) preparing a compound containing a group represented by formula (I) as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~,
  - (b) coupling the compound of step (a) to a carrier.
13. The method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ which further comprises the steps of
- (c) immunizing an animal with the conjugate obtained in step (b), and
  - (d) isolating the animal's blood, blood serum and/or spleenocytes.
14. A diagnostic kit containing the compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~.
15. An affinity matrix containing the compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ coupled to a polymeric resin.
16. Use of the compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ for the detection of a compound containing the group represented by the formula (I).
17. A method for concentrating a compound containing the group represented by the formula (I) from a fluid or for

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substantially decreasing the amount of a compound containing the group represented by the formula (I) in a fluid comprising the steps of

- (a) preparing the compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8,~~
- (b) coupling the compound obtained in step (a) to a polymeric matrix, and
- (c) contacting the fluid with the polymeric matrix obtained in step (b).